

Finland Hate Crime Report 2017

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2017 Hate Crime Report.

For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/finland

For more information about ODIHR's Hate Crime Report, visit: hatecrime.osce.org/our-methodology

Summary

Finland regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Finland has conducted victimization surveys to measure unreported hate crimes. The Finnish police closely co-operates with the Finnish Human Rights League, the Finnish Red Cross and Finnish Victim Support to develop a co-ordinated response to combat hate crimes. These organizations, along with the national police and other key authorities, form a network tasked by Finland's Ministry of Justice with monitoring hate crimes in Finland and developing adequate measures to prevent such crimes. Finland implemented ODIHR's Training Against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) programme in 2017 and went on to train over 1,000 police officers on hate crimes before integrating the programme's hate crime modules into pre- and in-service training for police.

[Hate crime data collection in Finland](#)

[Support for hate crime victims in Finland](#)

[Hate crime capacity building in Finland](#)

[Finland's hate crime legislation](#)

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR observes that Finland has met most OSCE commitments on hate crime data collection and reporting.

Official Data

The police also recorded criminal forms of intolerance other than hate crimes, such as defamation, other hate speech offences and criminal discrimination. These data are reported to ODIHR but are not included in the overall figure or in the breakdown below. One hundred prosecuted and 62 sentenced cases were originally reported, these numbers also included incidents of hate speech and discrimination which were therefore removed from the totals presented here. Prosecution and sentencing numbers represent only cases flagged by the police as hate crimes.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2017	1,497	63	37

Police data by bias motivation

A total of 1556 hate crimes were originally reported to ODIHR. The number of crime reports was 1165, as one crime report can include several hate crimes. This number included cases of ethnic agitation, defamation and discrimination, which were removed and are not presented here. For the first time, and with the consent of the Roma community, hate crime against Roma people are included as a new category.

1,146

Racist and xenophobic hate crime

The figure presented here covers the following grounds: "race/colour", "ethnicity/national origin, citizenship and language".

137

Anti-Muslim hate crime

47

Anti-Roma hate crime

46

Anti-Christian hate crime

42

Anti-LGBTI hate crime

Official data were reported separately for LGB (33 hate crimes) and transgender (nine hate crimes) hate crime, but are presented together here.

36

Disability hate crime

34

Other hate crime based on religion or belief

9

Anti-Semitic hate crime

Police data by type of crime

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753

Physical assault

This category also includes attempted assaults and attempted homicides.

241

Incitement to violence

231

Threats/ threatening behaviour

143

Damage to property

48

Disturbance of the peace

This category includes "disturbance of domestic peace".

37

Unspecified

This category includes various uncategorized offences, incl. crime committed after a verbal provocation.

20

Theft/ robbery

13

Vandalism

8

Attacks against places of worship

3

Homicide

National Developments

Based on a MoU with ODIHR, the Finnish police have been implementing the TAHCLE programme. Around 900 officers have received training on hate crimes to date. Training events have contributed to a measured increase in identification of hate motive (24 per cent in 2016 to 39 per cent in 2017).

The Ministry of Interior increased funding to address hate crime, which was identified as a priority area in the Police Strategy in 2016. The funding was used, among other things, to appoint 25 hate crime specialists to Helsinki Police Department.

Since December 2017, the Ministry of Justice has been co-ordinating an EU-funded project called Against Hate. One of the main objectives of the project is to further develop the national reporting mechanisms, especially regarding statistics on prosecution and sentencing of hate crime. The project also aims at enhancing the capacity of the police, prosecutors and judges to act against hate crime and hate speech, and to develop support services for victims of hate crime.

As part of the EU-funded project PROXIMITY, the Ministry of Justice is supporting the capacities of local authorities and especially municipal policing to prevent and identify hate crimes and other forms of intolerance.

Incidents reported by civil society

